

PATENT
Attorney DN 02P1566

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application and for the allowance of claims 19-20 and the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 16 and 17.

The Examiner has rejected all of the remaining claims based upon the Barnea reference alone or in combination with other references.

The Applicant has amended the rejected independent claims 1 and 13 to narrow them with additional limitations which distinguish the present invention from the Barnea reference. The sheath in these claims, as amended, is now more clearly distinguished from the apparatus that the Examiner asserted to be a sheath.

The Examiner has not objected to the drawings, but there was a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review form included with the Office Action indicating that drawing corrections are required. Formal drawings will be submitted upon receipt of Notice of Allowance.

Electronic Information Disclosure Statements were submitted in this application on August 7, 2002, and on August 23, 2002. The Examiner has not indicated that these references have been considered. It is respectfully requested that a copy of those submitted IDS forms be returned to the Applicant with the Examiner's initials indicated thereon.

PATENT
Attorney DN 02P1566

The Applicant believes that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and early notification of the same would be much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick L. Pruter

BY: 

Gregory G. Williams, Reg. No. 31,681
SIMMONS, PERRINE, ALBRIGHT & ELLWOOD, P.L.C.
Third Floor Tower Place
22 South Linn Street
Iowa City, IA 52240
Telephone: 319-887-1368
Facsimile: 319-887-1372

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, Fax No. 703-872-9306, on May 13, 2004.


Marian Palmersheim